

AF FORM 112-PART I

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COUNTRY GERMANY	REPORT NO. 272130-56-B-4321 A	(LEAF BLANK) 34834
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT		
SUBJECT Socio-Political Information	(INTERVIEWER) ELLIS, BOB (FN)	(EDITOR) SHARP
AREA REPORTED ON SVERDLOVSK, USSR	FROM (Agency) 7050 AISW (USAF)	
DATE OF REPORT 20 Jan 54	DATE OF INFORMATION May 50 - Sep 53	EVALUATION F-6
PREPARED BY (Officer) HALBERT H. ACKER, LT. COL. USAF	SOURCE 272130	
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable) (Rept # 272130-56-B-4322)		
SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112-Part II.)		
A. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION: 1. SOURCE was born on 7 July 1925 in HERRINGEN/HAMM, Germany. He attended grammar school for eight (8) years and worked for two (2) years as an apprentice watchmaker until he was drafted into the German Navy, serving nine (9) months in an amphibious engineer battalion. SOURCE is able to read and write the Russian language. 2. Released from US captivity in 1946, SOURCE joined his parents in the Russian Zone of Germany. He was arrested on the 1st of May 1946, after a four (4) days stay in the Russian Zone, as a suspected spy, and confined in the MVD prisons in GERA (5052N/1205E), WEIMAR (5059N/1119E), and TORGAU (5134N/1300E) until August 1946, when he was taken to ANZHERO-SUDZHENSK (5607N/8600E) and treated as a PW. SOURCE was confined here in a PW camp of unknown number and worked from February 1947 to September 1947 in a stone quarry, from September 1947 to April 1948 on a kolchoze farm, and from April 1948 to January 1949 as a coal miner. In January 1949, SOURCE was transferred to PW camp # 7503 at PROKOPIYEVSK (5350N/8649E), where he worked from January 1949 to October 1949 in a stone quarry, from October 1949 to March 1950 in the auto parts plant "KRASNIY REMONTE", and from March 1950 to May 1950 on house constr in the city. In this camp SOURCE did not have more than casual contact with Russian civilians, he used his spare time, however, to learn the Russian language. In May 1950, SOURCE was transferred to PW camp # 6118/H at SVERDLOVSK (5650N/6038E) and worked from May 1950 to September 1950 on constr of the rubber products plant "RTI", from September 1950 to November 1950 constructing a warehouse in the MVD supply and ordnance depot "OUWS", and from November 1950 to February 1953 as a carpenter on house constr in NISHNE-ISETSKIY (5645N/6042E). During the latter period of this time, SOURCE corresponded with a Russian girl. Correspondence was continued until June 1953. From February 1953 to June 1953, SOURCE was employed as a mason on constr of a Thermal Power Plant and occasionally had conversations with Russian constr laborers. He worked in a team with high ranking German officers and military judges who used their spare time discussing political events and collecting info from fellow PWs being transferred from other PW camps. From June 1953 to September 1953, SOURCE was confined in PW camp # 6118/O at SVERDLOVSK, and worked on constr of the Rubber Products Plant "RTI". 3. SOURCE showed himself very cooperative during interview. His intelligence was well above average. He was well mannered. SOURCE does not consider his education to be completed but intends to acquire a high school diploma within the next six (6) months. B. SOVIET ATTITUDES TOWARD GENERAL POLITICAL PROBLEMS: 4. SOURCE considered Tartars to be particularly opposed to the Soviet regime		
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because they were treated as the lower class in the classless society. On transport SOURCE often observed that Tartars lined up along the RR tracks and asked for bread. Heavy excavation work was usually done by work teams of Tartarian girls. Tartars and Russians avoided speaking with each other as much as possible. SOURCE did not know whether this hatred originated from old nationalistic controversies or concerned the Soviet Government in particular.

5. All persons holding key positions could be regarded as supporters of the regime. MVD officers were far more influential than equal ranking Army officers. SOURCE considered MVD so powerful that not even BERIA's downfall could more than superficially reduce this influence. Units and personnel of former occupation forced in Germany were usually transported to Siberia. As an example SOURCE mentioned General ZHUKOV, who was very popular in Russia and was considered the conqueror of BERLIN (5231N/1324E). When his position and popularity became too powerful for STALIN, he was transferred to SVERDLOVSK and lived in a country house S of the city. SOURCE saw him a few times in his passenger car driving into the city.

6. The main source of discontent was the poor standard of living of the working classes. Housing conditions improved considerably after the war. Though even in the new apartment houses sometimes two (2) families lived in one (1) room; this was an improvement as compared with the lodges people lived in before. SOURCE remembered that the director of the armament plant at NISHNE-ISETSKIY was the target of public discontent when he gave his daughter a POBEDA passenger car as a birthday present. The population was used to restrictions of employment choice. One month's pay per year was kept as a state loan. A Russian mechanic, who earned 1100 Rubels per month, told SOURCE that he paid a special tax of eighty (80) Rubels per month because his wife did not work. Only women with more than seven (7) children were allowed to stay home. Up to 1952, when a new law defining the status of women in the Soviet society was passed, women could be raped without punishment. SOURCE corresponded with a Russian girl named TAMARA, surname unknown, twenty (20) years old, who was employed as a sales girl and spoke excellent Russian without grammatical or spelling errors and was considered by fellow PWs, who were teachers, as highly intelligent. The girl lived in NISHNE-ISETSKIY in the last house on the E side on the same road as quartal # 76 but on the opposite side of the street SOURCE learned that this girl had an American girl friend living in SVERDLOVSK, who was married to a Russian, who was daily interrogated by the police and told to divorce her. SOURCE's friend felt ashamed of this treatment.

C. EVENTS FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF STALIN:

7. Prior to STALIN'S death nobody dared to criticize him or his actions. Everybody old enough to compare, told SOURCE that living conditions under LENIN were better in every respect. This opinion was shared especially by the working classes. SOURCE learned that the female assassinating LENIN was still alive and did clerical work in a prison presumed to be the LUBYANKA in MOSKVA (5545N/3735E).

9. SOURCE learned from a report broadcasted by SVERDLOVSK radio station that fourteen (14) murders and numerous other crimes were committed in SVERDLOVSK on the night following the release of criminals according to the amnesty of 27 March 1953. SOURCE learned from the broadcast that persons sentenced according to four (4) paragraphs of the criminal code were not pardoned. These paragraphs were: par 58, espionage; heavy economical crimes; banditism; and agitation. Excepted were: persons over fifty (50) or sixty (60) years of age, SOURCE did not remember the exact age limit, females with young children and pregnant women. All convicts sentenced to less than five (5) years were pardoned. All other convicts, with exception of those sentenced in accordance with the above mentioned four (4) paras, got a fifty (50) per cent reduction of terms. Most PWs were pardoned, even those charged with espionage. The amnesty concerned 260 PWs out of 500 in PW camp # 6118/H at SVERDLOVSK. Members of the German Police, the SD meaning SICHERHEITSDIENST a branch of the SS, staff officers and members of certain special units suspected of war crimes were not repatriated. The amnesty was generally cheered by the population because

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every third family had a relative in prison. Population attributed the amnesty to STALIN'S death because it was common practice, even in tsaristic times, to proclaim an amnesty with every change of government.

10. SOURCE learned from MALENKOV'S speech that population might sleep safe at night and should not fear sudden arrests. He will follow the politics of MARX, LENIN, and their follower. He never mentioned the name STALIN. With respect to the reform of the Criminal Code all books on the KP (SU) were withdrawn from the camp library in order to make amendments to laws published in those books. SOURCE learned from the radio and camp authorities that the new Criminal Code should be effective from 5th of May 1953.

12. SOURCE learned from a broadcast that Jewish doctors were accused of being guilty of the death of one (1) member of Supreme Soviet and of the sickness of several others due to wrong treatment. Rumors spread among the population that these doctors were responsible for STALIN'S death. It was presumed that those doctors were friends of BERIA. About three (3) weeks after the doctors' arrest, the Directors for Schools in the district of SVERDLOVSK was arrested. Since he was a Jew, everybody suspected a connection with the doctors' case.

13. News of the revolt on June 17 were transmitted over the radio. Reaction of the population was passive. SOURCE heard sometimes, from conversations of Russian laborers among themselves, that every native loves his freedom.

14. It was the common opinion of every laborer SOURCE talked with, that BERIA had planned to overthrow the MALENKOV Government and that BERIA in power would result in "rolling heads". SOURCE learned from civilians that following BERIA'S arrest, trains thru BELO-RUSSIA, CAUCASIA, and UKRAINIAN SSR were heavily guarded because of uproars in those regions. According to rumors also several arrests affecting higher MVD officers were made in SVERDLOVSK. SOURCE learned from rumors that 1st Lt. MVD SIDMOV, who was in charge of PW camps in the area of SVERDLOVSK was also arrested. SOURCE never saw this officer on later dates.

15. SOURCE did not observe that more consumer goods appeared on the market following MALENKOV'S speech. He learned, however, that the completion dates for several bldg projects, especially residential houses were advanced. Population was so used to promises by their government that they took the new announcement and promise with a rather pessimistic attitude.

16. SOURCE did not hear of any improvement caused by this announcement.

17. SOURCE'S correspondence partner as well as laborers he did not know by name considered MALENKOV as the real man in power. ZHUKOV was considered as a man with increasing influence because he was backed by MALENKOV and public support. Due to his merits in the war he became more and more powerful. Great hopes were also attached to MOLOTOV'S nomination as foreign minister because he is generally considered a better diplomat than VISHINSKY and is expected to end Russian's political isolation. In this connection SOURCE mentioned that according to his experiences all Russians are suffering from an inferiority complex with respect to the Germans and the Western Powers, and that this attitude might as well influence Russia's relations to other peoples. MALENKOV was generally given credit for the ameliorative measures in the first period of his government.

18. The laborers, SOURCE spoke with showed a pessimistic attitude towards the new regime because they simply did not believe in a change. The period of time between announcement of the changes and SOURCE'S repatriation was too short, however to feel or see whether it was possible to put all these promises into effect.

D. PURGES, RESISTANCE ACTIVITIES AND MASS ARRESTS:

20. SOURCE learned from rumors that a resistance organization called "CHORNE KOSHA" (SOURCE'S phonetic spelling, meaning black cat) was active in the area of KARAGANDA (4950N/7311E). No facts were reported.

E. FORCED LABOR CAMPS:

24. In NISHNE-ISETSK, SOURCE saw three (3) Russia-born Americans working as mechanics on constr of quartal # 102. Two (2) of them were more than forty (40)

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years of age, the third one was nineteen (19) years old and did not speak Russian. They sang American songs and when SOURCE inquired, he learned from fellow PWs that the three (3) men were arrested by MAO's police in SHANGHAI (3115N/12129E) from a ship, imprisoned, transferred to the Soviet authorities and lived as free laborers in SVERDLOVSK.

F. VOICE OF AMERICA:

30. SOURCE learned from a fellow PW returning from the prison SVERDLOVSK the following story: A Russian woman standing in line in front of a state-owned shop to acquire some consumer goods for several hours, found out that the goods she wanted were out of sale. She used insulting language against the government and was consequently arrested at 1600 hours. Next day at 1800 hours, when she was brought together with new arrivals, in the prison, she was told that her arrest was broadcasted over the Voice of America at 1300 hours the same day.

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